

C7A

PRIME MINISTER

You will recall the rather flamboyant character, John McCririck, from the Sporting Life, from the British Press Awards presentation last month. He then spoke up on the Olympic boycott and has since done a feature in the Daily Mail.

He now asks whether, in advance of the May 24 deadline for Moscow acceptances, you could give him an interview appealing to the athletes not to go. This is an opportunity to get over your point of view but the Sporting Life is not exactly a mass circulation newspaper and I think you could use your time better with another daily newspaper if you wanted to make such an appeal. However, you will no doubt be writing shortly to the British Olympic Association and a lot of publicity will thereby be generated.

Content for me to turn down Mr. McCririck?



B. INGHAM

9 May, 1980

No. I will see him.
People who speak out as he
did - and in that audience
deserve encouragement
out.

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PRIME MINISTER

John McCririck, who asked for an interview on the Olympics (fixed for Wednesday, at 5.30 p.m.), has now come back with a series of questions about racing.

They are set out in the attached letter.

If you agree, I propose to tell him that he sought his interview on the basis of his interest and concern about the Olympics and that you are not prepared to answer questions on other matters. *Agree*
I do not think we should encourage people who ask for interviews on one subject then to try to slide in other matters. Agree?

Stephanie Walmsey
PP. B. INGHAM

I know nothing about racing.

19 May, 1980

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